



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River  
and Recreation Area  
111 E Kellogg Blvd, Ste. 105  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

651-293-0200  
[www.nps.gov/miss](http://www.nps.gov/miss)

---

## National Park Service News Release

For Immediate Release: April 1, 2016

Contact: Lyndon Torstenson, 651-293-8426

### **“Lift Every Voice: The Black Experience in the Heartland” comes to Saint Paul’s Capitol Hill School**

Saint Paul, MN – The National Park Service at the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area is pleased to announce that the Bright Star Touring Theater will present an original play *Lift Every Voice: The Black Experience in the Heartland* on April 12, 2016 at Capitol Hill Magnet School in Saint Paul. Two performances will be presented for nearly 1,000 students in grades 4-8.

The National Park Service and Bright Star Touring Theatre teamed up to produce *Lift Every Voice* to celebrate the National Park Service’s centennial and many Black Americans who made a difference in the American Midwest. History comes to life with scenes from the first Black homesteaders reaching Nicodemus, KS, to the Little Rock Nine on their first day of school, to Dred Scott, a slave who challenged slavery’s reach based on the years he lived at Fort Snelling. Students will meet famous leaders, groundbreakers and heroes such as Charles Young, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington Carver in this engaging and educational performance. Audiences will learn about many national parks throughout the Midwest, such as the Lincoln Home in Springfield, IL, Brown v Board of Education in Topeka, KS, and Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice, NE. The production also includes empowering songs such as “Oh Freedom,” “I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table,” “For Lincoln and Liberty Too,” and “Home on the Range.” *Lift Every Voice* is ideal for upper elementary and middle school students.

*A Call to Action Strategic Plan* charts a path for the 2016 centennial of the National Park Service and one action concept, *History Lesson*, expands the meaning of parks and our shared American heritage. *Lift Every Voice* is designed to meet the National Park Service’s centennial goal of connecting with and creating the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates.

**[www.nps.gov/miss](http://www.nps.gov/miss)**

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 409 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*